



WHERE WE STAND

**Understanding the
Herndon Police Department's
Use of Force Policy**

USE OF FORCE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Officers may use force, to the extent permitted by law, training, and policy, and are authorized to use proportional, objectively reasonable force to establish control and gain compliance when the officer perceives it is necessary given the circumstances known to the officer at the time of the incident.

A reverence and respect for the dignity of all persons and the sanctity of human life shall guide officers in the use of force and be the governing principle. The use of force shall end when resistance ceases, and/or the officer has accomplished the lawful purpose.

ACCREDITED AGENCY

Accreditation is Voluntary

The Herndon Police Department is an accredited agency, and is officially recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), an independent accrediting council, as meeting the essential requirements of professional law enforcement standards. The department has been accredited for **34 years** and is reviewed for compliance every year, and assessed for reaccreditation every four years. **Only a fraction (approximately 5 percent) of police departments in the United States are nationally accredited with CALEA.**



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We understand the critical need to remain accountable to our community. Building trust and respect can only be attained through a solid foundation of professionalism, strong policies, and continuous community engagement.

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- Chief of Police
Maggie A. DeBoard

#NotOnMyWatch

WE CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT TO:

- ◆ Police our community with integrity, fairness, and compassion.
- ◆ Use only necessary and reasonable force in resolving incidents.
- ◆ Intervene and hold accountable those who fail to do so.



CHOKEHOLDS AND CAROTID RESTRAINTS BANNED

The use of chokeholds, carotid restraint holds, or other physical tactics not taught or authorized, is prohibited, except where deadly force is authorized.



REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

Officers receive de-escalation and crisis intervention training.

Officers receive de-escalation training each year, in conjunction with the use of force policy, with strategies to gain voluntary compliance, reduce the level of force required in a situation, or prevent any use of force, if possible. This training involves both verbal de-escalation and physical crisis intervention skills. Additionally, **19 officers are certified in Crisis Intervention, a 40-hour, specialized course in de-escalation techniques.**

REQUIRE WARNINGS

Officers must advise, warn, command, or verbally persuade, when tactically feasible, prior to the use of force.

USE OF FORCE ALTERNATIVES

Officers are required to make decisions in rapidly changing and quickly unfolding situations.

When use of force is necessary, officers must assess each incident based on policy, training, and experience to determine which force options are appropriate and reasonable in order to bring the situation under control in the safest manner possible for all persons involved.

The "Use of Force Continuum" is an outdated concept from previous decades that has been replaced with more knowledgeable, science-based use of force training and policy. These new policies continue to place an emphasis on de-escalation and using the least amount of force possible to safely resolve incidents.

DUTY TO INTERVENE

Officers are required to intervene if they observe excessive force or witness other police misconduct.

The duty to intervene is an implicit responsibility that enhances accountability, community safety, and the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals.

REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

Officers are required to immediately notify their supervisor following any use of force.

All use of force incidents must be thoroughly documented and will undergo an administrative review.

SHOOTING AT, OR FROM, MOVING VEHICLES PROHIBITED

Shooting at, or from, a moving vehicle and/or its occupants is prohibited unless someone in the vehicle is using or threatening deadly force by means other than the vehicle itself.

MEDICAL AID

Medical aid must be provided.

Once the scene is safe, and as soon as practical, officers are required to provide appropriate medical aid or medical treatment to any person who is obviously injured, alleges an injury, or requests medical attention following a use of force.



Our department's policies are available online at:

<https://www.herndon-va.gov/public-safety/regulations-and-general-orders>

CONNECT WITH US

www.herndon-va.gov

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